

VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS STAFF

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

DATE: 12 April 1972

TO: Major General Robert E. Pursley
Military Assistant to the
FROM: Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Net Assessment

REMARKS:

Per our 12 April telephone conversation, attached are five additional copies of the net assessment we prepared for Secretary Laird. Three of these -- copy numbers 4, 5 and 6 -- are bound and would be appropriate for Secretary Rogers, Dr. Kissinger and the Chairman. The other two -- copy numbers 31 and 32 -- do not have hard covers but in other respects are identical. These can be used as working copies within your office.

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Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachments

SC 07038/72

Copy Numbers 4, 5, 6, 31, 32

"Net Assessment of North Vietnamese
and South Vietnamese Military Forces"

INFORMATION

1-C/OER/D/1

Net Assessment

11 April 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Laird Net Assessment

1. Attached for your perusal is a copy of the net assessment we did for Laird, together with a copy of my transmittal note to him. He seemed very impressed and was certainly effusive in his thanks. As you will note, I have now distributed four copies: to Laird, to Rush, to Pursley (to whom I actually gave Rush's copy for delivery) and to Don Bennett. A copy of my buckslip to Bennett is also appended.

2. Laird said he wanted to read this work today and would call me tomorrow (12 April) about further distribution. I did not ask him if I could give Bennett a copy but (for obvious reasons) simply told him that I was doing so. This apparently caused no trouble.

3. The session with Bennett was most cordial and relaxed. There may still be some understandable heartburn in DIA about our having done this net assessment unilaterally, but my institutional and personal relations with Bennett seem excellent and he apparently well recognizes that in this instance we were doing what Laird explicitly asked us to do and had no choice or discretionary latitude with respect to coordination.

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Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

SC 07038, Copy No. 4